

**GENERIC NAME:**

**CHARCOAL, ACTIVATED**  
(without sorbitol) 112.07

**BRAND NAME:** Charcola, Actidose-aqua

**CLASS:** adsorbent

Mechanism of Action:

**Pharmacological:** Physical binding (adsorption) of toxins from GI tract.

**Clinical effects:** Prevents/reduces systemic absorption of toxins.

Indications and Field Use:

Sole prehospital therapy of oral ingestion of toxic substances.

Pre-lavage of oral ingestions of toxic substances.

Contraindications:

Ingestion of caustics

Ingestion of hydrocarbons (relative)

Oral administration to comatose patient

Simultaneous administration of other oral drugs

Adverse Reactions:

May provoke vomiting

May worsen overdosed induced Ileus

**NOTES ON ADMINISTRATION**

Incompatibilities/Drug Interactions:

Ineffective for iron, lithium, heavy metals, and other ions.

May reduce the effectiveness of other treatments (Mucomyst) in pure acetaminophen OD's.

Since charcoal bonds with whatever it is mixed with, flavoring with drinks reduces effectiveness.

Adult Dosage:

30-60 Gm (1-2 Gm/kg); if not in pre-mixed slurry, mix one part charcoal with four parts water.

Pediatric Dosage:

0.5 -1.0 Gm/kg; if not in pre-mixed slurry, mix one part charcoal with four parts water.

Routes of Administration:

Oral (po), nasogastric tube (ng), orogastric (og)

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### Onset of Action:

Immediate

### Peak Effects:

Not applicable

### Duration of Action:

Dependent upon GI function; acts until excreted

### Dosage Forms/Packaging:

Powder  
Pre-mixed slurries of 15, 25, and 50 Gms  
Pre-mixed tubes of 25 Gms

### Arizona Drug Box Supply Range:

PARAMEDIC:	2 - 4 (25 gm. tubes)
INTERMEDIATE	2 - 4 (25 gm. tubes)

### Special Notes:

- > Give it!
- > Charcoal mixture should not contain sorbitol; carefully read label of exchange supply.